

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:ECINGRAHAM:CCH
APPROVED BY P - MR. HABIB
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

S E C R E T STATE 008516

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, VN, RP, TH

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GENERAL
MURDANI -- REGIONAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 8515 (NOTAL)

1. GENERAL LEONARDUS MURDANI, INDONESIAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT INTELLIGENCE CHIEF AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR, HAD HOUR'S MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB JANUARY 12. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION OF TOPICS OF REGIONAL INTEREST.

2. SINGAPORE. MURDANI SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND PRIME MINISTER LEE WERE "GOOD" FOLLOWING THEIR
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RECENT MEETING. THE INDONESIANS UNDERSTOOD WHAT HAD MOTIVATED SINGAPORE'S ABSTENTION ON THE TIMOR ISSUE IN THE UNGA AND BORE NO GRUDGES.

3. THAILAND. IN RESPONSE TO MR. HABIB'S QUESTION, MURDANI SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT KRIANGSAK WAS RUNNING THE SHOW. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME DIS-

SATISFACTION WITH HIM IN THE ARMY, HE SEEMED TO BE "FIRST AMONG EQUALS". PRIME MINISTER THANIN SEEMED INEXPERIENCED AND NAIVE. MR. HABIB NOTED THAT THE REGIME HAD BEEN ABLE

TO GET PRAPHAT INTO THE COUNTRY AND WONDERED WHAT HIS ROLE WOULD BE. MURDANI SAID HE SEEMED TO HAVE NO ROLE AT ALL AND THAT HE HAD APPARENTLY BEEN PERMITTED BACK LARGELY TO PLACATE THE ARMY. THE INDONESIANS, MURDANI SAID, WERE NOT SURE WHETHER THE PRESENT REGIME WOULD LAST. SUHARTO HAD TOLD THANIN THAT THIS COULD BE THEIR "LAST CHANCE." ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WERE FAVORABLE FACTORS. THE THAI ECONOMY, DESPITE ALL, WAS DOING VERY WELL.

4. THE THAI INSURGENCY. MURDANI INDICATED THAT THE THAIS WERE INCREASING THEIR MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAINST THE GUERILLAS IN THE SOUTH. HOWEVER, IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE THAIS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS WHETHER TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THEIR MILITARY EFFORTS IN THE NORTH, NORTHEAST, OR THE SOUTH. HE SAID THAT THAI INTELLIGENCE HAD REPORTED SOME US-ORIGIN WEAPONS FROM INDOCHINA (FEWER THAN 100) HAS BEEN FOUND WITH THE INSURGENTS. HE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT AN IRAQI DELEGATION HAD RECENTLY VISITED VIETNAM TO DISCUSS ACQUISITION OF US-ORIGIN WEAPONS.

5. PHILIPPINES. MURDANI SAID HE FOUND THE FILIPINOS CURRENTLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A SETTLEMENT OF THE MOSLEM REBELLION THROUGH THE LIBYANS BUT HE WAS LESS SO. HE NOTED THAT THE PHILIPPINE LEADERSHIP STILL TALKED ABOUT
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"WE" AND "THEY" WHEN DISCUSSING THE MOSLEMS. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION, MR. HABIB SAID THAT THE U.S. INTENDED TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENCE AT SUBIC AND CLARK UNLESS MARCOS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE. THERE WAS A LIMIT TO WHAT WE COULD ; OFFER, AND MARCOS WAS ASKING TOO MUCH. WE HAD MADE AN EXCELLENT COUNTER-OFFER BUT MARCOS HAD REJECTED IT. NOW WE WOULD HAVE TO START AGAIN. MURDANI WONDERED WHETHER THE PHILIPPINE BASIS WERE IMPORTANT TO US. MR. HABIB REPLIED THAT THEY WERE IMPORTANT TO US BUT NO LESS IMPORTANT TO THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES. WE HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES, HE CONTINUED, AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK SOMETHING OUT.

6. VIETNAM. MURDANI SAID INDONESIA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF "U.S. MONEY FLOODING INTO VIETNAM." MR. HABIB REPLIED THAT ONE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT HAD RECOMMENDED SOME HUMANITARIAN AID BUT THAT THERE WAS NO PROSPECT WHATSOEVER OF A SIGNIFICANT US AID PROGRAM. FOR ONE THING, THE LAW PROHIBITED IT. MURDANI SAID

INDONESIA WAS MORE WORRIED THAT THE US OIL COMPANIES
WOULD BEGIN PUTTING MONEY INTO VIETNAM, GIVING HANOI FUNDS
FOR A MORE RAPID ECONOMIC BUILD-UP THAN INDONESIA WOULD
LIKE TO SEE. MR. HABIB DOUBTED THAT VIETNAM WOULD BE

INCLINED TO MAKE CONDITIONS SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE FOR
THE OIL COMPANIES IN THE NEAR TERM, EVEN IN THE EVENT OF
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.
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